(b) whether these proposals provide to bring large barren areas under forest cover well as jobs to ex-servicemen;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to approve these proposals early; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Two project proposals-one for Dada micro watershed in Kangra district and the other for rehabilitation of mining area in Sirmour district-were received from Government of Himachal Pradesh. 800 hectares of land were proposed for rehabilitation in Dada Micro watershed and 1300 hectares in Sirmour. The first project would employ 70 ex-servicemen for 5 years and the second project 253 ex-servicemen for a period of 3 years.

(d) and (e) Due to budgetary constraints the proposals could not be considered.

Non-utilisation of funds ment for environment preservation

3446. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major portion of funds allocated for Environment preservation projects has not been utilised;

(b) the details of the said projects for which fund has not been utilized and details of which are lying pending, till date; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) No Sir, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has spent an amount of about Rs. 551 crores during 1999-2000 against revised estimate of Rs. 610 crores. The remaining amount could not be spent due to various reasons including delay in approval of re-appropriation by the Ministry of Finance.